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FARM TELEPHONES INCREASE

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
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July 6, 1959

Three-fifths of Nation's Farms
Have Telephone Service

Three out of five farms in the United States had telephone service in 1958, according to the annual survey conducted by the Crop Reporting Board. About 2.9 million of the country's 4.7 million farms had telephone service as of July 1958. This was a 5 percent increase above the estimate for 1957; 13 percent above 1955; and 32 percent above 1950.

Largest increase in number of farm telephones occurred in the South where about 4 out of 10 farms had telephone service in 1958 compared with less than 2 out of 10 in 1950; and 1 out of 10 in 1940. The next largest increase was in the West North Central Division where three-fourths of the farms now have telephones compared with 3 out of 5 in 1950.

The percentage of farms with telephones has been increasing more rapidly than the actual number with telephones partly because of the downward trend in the total number of farms. In New England and the Mid-Atlantic States where nearly all of the farms have telephone service, the downward trend in total farms has resulted in a slight decrease in the number of farms with telephone service.

In the Rocky Mountain States, the increase in farms with telephones amounted to 6 percentage points, the same as in the South Atlantic and East South Central divisions. All geographic divisions showed some increase with the United States average up 4.6 percentage points. This represents an increase of 10.8 percentage points from 1955 and 22.0 points from 1950.

Farms with Telephone, Selected Years, by States

State and division	Percent of Farms with Telephone				Number of Farms with Telephone			
	1950	1955	1957 ^{1/}	1958	1950 (000)	1955 (000)	1957 ^{1/} (000)	1958 (000)
Maine	64	74	83	84	23	20	20	19
N.H.	75	79	83	87	12	9	9	9
Vt.	70	76	78	80	15	14	14	14
Mass.	78	90	91	91	23	19	17	16
R.I.	77	84	85	87	3	2	2	2
Conn.	84	94	95	95	17	15	14	13
N.Eng.	74	81	86	87	93	79	76	73
N.Y.	70	83	87	87	96	94	90	87
N.J.	72	88	91	91	19	21	21	21
Pa.	53	69	75	78	84	93	94	95
M.Atl.	62	76	81	83	199	208	205	203
Ohio	60	72	75	78	125	134	134	136
Ind.	62	72	78	81	108	116	120	122
Ill.	65	74	81	85	133	138	146	150
Mich.	53	68	72	75	86	99	101	102
Wis.	59	68	73	76	103	109	113	114
E.N.Cent.	60	71	77	79	555	596	614	624
Minn.	60	69	75	80	110	119	124	130
Iowa	82	88	90	92	169	174	176	178
Mo.	46	53	56	60	112	117	122	129
N.Dak.	42	46	53	60	28	29	32	35
S.Dak.	56	60	64	66	38	39	40	41
Nebr.	65	72	77	80	71	77	79	82
Kans.	68	75	81	84	92	94	96	98
W.N.Cent.	61	68	72	76	620	649	669	693
Del.	67	84	87	88	6	6	6	5
Md.	54	68	72	75	21	24	24	25
Va.	24	34	42	48	39	50	59	66
W.Va.	27	33	40	47	23	24	27	30
N.C.	8	18	25	31	24	53	69	85
S.C.	8	20	25	32	12	27	31	39
Ga.	9	22	31	36	20	40	51	58
Fla.	18	36	48	56	11	23	30	35
S.Atl.	15	27	34	40	156	247	297	343
Ky.	21	28	35	41	48	57	69	78
Tenn.	19	32	42	48	46	69	87	87
Ala.	8	16	23	30	18	30	40	50
Miss.	6	16	25	31	17	35	53	63
E.S.Cent.	14	23	32	38	129	191	249	288
Ark.	10	18	23	28	20	27	33	39
La.	12	28	39	47	15	34	45	54
Okla.	33	46	50	53	49	57	59	61
Tex.	24	39	45	50	82	122	134	146
W.S.Cent.	20	34	40	45	166	240	271	300
Mont.	28	40	53	60	11	14	18	21
Idaho	55	68	74	79	23	27	29	31
Wyo.	38	54	61	68	5	7	7	8
Colo.	59	68	70	73	28	30	30	31
N.Mex.	15	28	34	38	4	6	7	8
Ariz.	42	58	64	70	5	6	6	7
Utah	52	76	81	82	13	19	19	19
Nev.	50	62	65	66	2	2	2	2
Mount.	44	57	63	69	91	111	118	127
Wash.	57	76	80	84	42	52	54	55
Oreg.	50	72	77	80	32	42	42	43
Calif.	57	78	84	88	83	105	111	115
Pacific	56	76	81	85	157	199	207	213
U.S.	38.3	1/49.5	55.7	60.3	2,166	2,520	2,706	2,864